

Serial No. 10/563,502
Atty. Doc. No. 2003P07890WOUS

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to the figures to include descriptive labels as requested by the Examiner. Sheets 1 – 5 including FIGS. 1 – 7 replace original sheets 1 – 5.

Attachment: 5 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were previously cancelled. Claims 7-12 were pending. Claims 7, 9, 11, and 12 are amended herein. New claims 13 – 23 are added. Thus, claims 7 - 23 are presented for examination.

Applicant submits that support for these amendments can be found in the claims and disclosure as originally filed, including paragraphs 00030 – 00039] as associated Figs. 4 - 7, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to for lacking descriptive labels. Descriptive labels have been added. Applicant requests that the objection be withdrawn in view of these replacement drawings submitted herewith.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 was objected to for an informality. Applicant has corrected the informality in its amendment and requests the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 7 - 12 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kolblin* (6,216,172). Based upon the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

A claim is anticipated only if **each and every element** as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the claim. The elements must be **arranged as required by the claim**.

Amended Claim 7 and new claim 18 comprise elements not described or suggested in the cited reference. For example, *Kolblin* does not show or suggest “first **broadcast** request comprising a list of currently **non-occupied station addresses**,” nor does it show or

suggest “first **new agent request** to all station addresses on the bus requesting a new agent response, wherein: (i) for each non-responsive station address in which **no response is received, the current allocation is updated to non-occupied** in the database, and (ii) for each responsive station address in which a response comprising data uniquely indentifying the agent at that station address is received, **the current allocation is updated to a communication user** and the data uniquely indentifying the agent at that address is recorded.” Moreover, *Kolblin* does not show or suggest “second **new agent request** addressed to each responsive station address on the bus comprising (i) the data uniquely indentifying the agent at that station address as recorded in the database as **confirmation**, thereby assuring the communication user at that station address of correct identification by the manager.” Finally, the unique arrangement of the steps, i.e., the order and arrangement of the communication cycle transmissions, is not shown or described in the cited reference.

In view of the foregoing and the amended/new claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference does not disclose or suggest all features of amended Claim 7 and new claim 18. Moreover, the reference does not render the claims obvious. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and to pass independent Claims 7 and 18 to allowance.

The remaining claims depend from Claims 7 and 18. These dependent claims recite additional inventive features that are in combination with the features of the respective independent claim not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. The above arguments regarding Claims 7 and 18 are repeated herewith. Each one of these dependent claims is, therefore, on its own patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and to withdraw the instant rejections and to pass the claims to allowance.

(Please proceed to the next page.)

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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